

## MAKE NOTE OF SUDDEN CHANGES

Be on the alert for sudden changes in the other parent's life. Changes such as quitting a job or selling a home may be made in preparation to relocate.

## FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE DUAL NATIONALITY, CONTACT THE EMBASSY OR CONSULATE OF THE OTHER COUNTRY

Your child may have dual nationality if, for example, one parent is a citizen of another country. If you suspect your child may hold another nationality, contact the embassy or consulate of that country and inquire about their passport requirements and entry/exit laws for minors.

## INFORMATION ON EXIT CONTROLS

The United States does not have exit controls or require two-parent consent for travel of a minor across international borders.

If traveling from the United States to Canada or Mexico, travelers are subject to the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, which states that children under 16 may be able to cross a land or sea border with only a photocopy of the child's birth certificate.

## AFTER AN ABDUCTION OCCURS

If you have reason to believe that your child has been wrongfully removed or retained across an international border – either from the United States to a foreign country or from a foreign country to the United States – please contact the Office of Children's Issues as soon as possible. We are available to assist 24 hours a day at : 1-888-407-4747 from the United States or Canada, or +1 202-501-4444 from other countries.

**THE INFORMATION IN THIS FLYER IS PROVIDED FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY, IS NOT INTENDED TO BE LEGAL ADVICE, AND MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.**

## CONTACT US

**U.S. Department of State  
Office of Children's Issues**

**From the United States or Canada:  
1-888-407-4747**

**From other countries:  
+1 202-501-4444**

**Email: [Preventabduction1@state.gov](mailto:Preventabduction1@state.gov)**

**[travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)**

*JULY 2018*



# PREVENTING INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION

United States Department of State  
Bureau of Consular Affairs



## INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION IS A CRIME

International parental child abduction is a crime in every state and the District of Columbia under specified circumstances.

International parental child abduction is also a federal crime under the International Parental Kidnapping Crime Act.

If you are concerned that your child is at risk of being abducted internationally by a parent or legal guardian, take steps to attempt to prevent it. Contact the State Department for assistance at:

**1-888-407-4747** from the United States or Canada, or **+1 202-501-4444** from other countries.

### TIPS TO PREVENT AN ABDUCTION FROM OCCURRING

#### TAKE ACTION

Don't delay action if you think your child has been taken by the other parent.

#### GET A CUSTODY DECREE OR ORDER

A clear court order may be the most important preventative measure. Custody orders may include provisions such as prohibiting international travel of the child with one or both parents, requiring the court's approval to take the child out of the state or country, and/or asking for the court or a neutral third party to

hold passports. Law enforcement may be unable to prevent abduction without a valid court order clearly prohibiting the child's travel outside of the United States. We strongly encourage parents to consult with an attorney regarding their particular circumstances. Clear court orders, as well as existing state and federal statutes, may enable law enforcement to take action in cases where abduction is attempted or when a child may be wrongfully removed from the United States.

For more information, please visit our website at [childabduction.state.gov](http://childabduction.state.gov).

#### NOTIFY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Do not ignore any abduction threat. Notify police and give them copies of any court order regarding custody by the other parent.

#### ENROLL YOUR CHILD INTO THE CHILDREN'S PASSPORT ISSUANCE ALERT PROGRAM (CPIAP)

Parents may enroll their children under the age of 18 into the Department of State's Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP). If a passport application is submitted for a child who is enrolled in CPIAP, the program allows the Department to contact the requesting parent(s) to verify whether the parental consent requirement for minors has been met.

Note: Enrolling a child into CPIAP does not guarantee that the child will not be issued a passport.



## PREVENTING INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION